



Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs INDIAN HEALTH

MedicareRx
Prescription Drug Coverage X

QUICK FACTS

American Indians and Alaska Natives with Limited Incomes and Resources

Starting January 1, 2006, many Indian health facilities will participate in Medicare prescription drug coverage for people with Medicare. If you have Medicare and have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan may benefit you and your community.

What do I need to know?

- You can apply for extra help through the Social Security Administration, your State Medical Assistance Office or your local Indian health facility. Social Security is mailing the application for extra help to those who may qualify.
- If you receive an application, fill it out and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your Indian health provider, family member or other designated person can help you fill out this application.
- If you don't receive an application in the mail, you can request one by calling the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213.
- The amount of extra help you get depends on your income and resources. Money and resources received from trust lands or other AI/AN specific sources may not count as income. Ask your Indian health provider or local SSA office.
- Extra help is available to people with resources up to \$11,500 for individuals and \$23,000 for couples who also meet the income test.
- If you don't know if you qualify for extra help, fill out the application anyway—when in doubt, fill it out!
- You will still need to join a Medicare prescription drug plan to receive Medicare prescription drug coverage.



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- You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. If you join by December 31, 2005, your coverage begins January 1, 2006. If you join after January 1, 2006, your coverage starts the first day of the month after the month you join.
- As an American Indian or Alaska Native you will continue to receive drug coverage through your Indian health provider regardless of whether you qualify for extra help.
- Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan could help your Indian health provider save money and increase services to your community.

How can I get more information?

For more information on how to join see your pharmacist or check with the benefits coordinator at your local Indian health pharmacy. Detailed information is available now.

You can look at the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook, visit www.medicare.gov on the web or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. For more information on who can get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web.

CONTACT YOUR INDIAN HEALTH PROVIDER

